

**A NEW SPECIES OF *ACOURTIA* (ASTERACEAE, MUTISIEAE) FROM
NUEVO LEON, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Acourtia*, *A. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, is described from southern Nuevo León, México. It is closely related to *A. tomentosa* from southern Puebla, México but differs in being a robust herb 0.6-1.5 m high (vs. 0.2-0.4 m high) with larger heads, more numerous florets, and larger nearly glabrate achenes.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Mutisieae, *Acourtia*, México, Nuevo León

Identification of newly assembled plants from Nuevo León, México has revealed the following novelty.

Acourtia hintoniorum B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, between La Escondida and Josecito, large colony along roadside in cultivated field among open areas of oak woodland, 2340 m, 13 Nov 1993, *G.B. Hinton et al. 29934* (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Acourtiae tomentosae (Brandeg.) King & Robins. similis sed plantis robustioribus (0.6-1.0 m altis vs. 0.2-0.4 m) foliis ad mid-caulem majoribus (5-60 cm longis vs. 3-5 cm) et capitulis majoribus flosculis numerosioribus (ca. 50 vs. plus quam 100) acheniis 8-10 mm longis fere glabris (vs. 5-6 mm longis dense glandulosis) differt.

Stiffly erect suffruticose herbs 0.6-1.5 m high. Midstems densely tomentose, 5-6 mm across. Leaves numerous, gradually reduced upwards, not much overlapping, those at midstem elliptic to ovate-elliptic, mostly 5-10 cm long, 3-5 cm wide, glabrate above, densely tomentose beneath, the margins serrulate. Heads very large, terminal, nearly sessile, forming 1-5 headed cymes by

branching of upper primary shoots. Involucres tomentose, campanulate, 2-3 seriate, the bracts subequal, 2.0-2.5 cm high, 2.3-3.0 cm wide, the outer series ovate and grading into the leaves. The inner series linear-lanceolate, gradually acuminate. Receptacle convex, epaleate, glabrous, 6-8 mm across, ca. 3 mm high. Florets numerous (100 +), the corollas purple, bilabiate. Achenes fusiform, ca. 9-ribbed, 8-10 mm long, glabrous except for a few minute atomiferous-glandular hairs near their apices.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Zaragoza, N side of Peña Nevada at "Puerto Pinos" and junction with road to Joya de San Diego, oak woods, 2560 m, 23 Aug 1989, *Nesom 7106* (TEX).

This taxon was first collected by Dr. Guy Nesom in 1989 and distributed as *Acourtia tomentosa* Brandeg. (known only from southern Puebla, México), which it superficially resembles. The following couplet will distinguish between these:

Robust herbs 0.6-1.5 m high; midstem leaves mostly elliptic, 5-10 cm long;
achenes 8-10 mm long; S Nuevo León. *A. hintoniorum*

Low herbs 0.2-0.4 m high; midstem leaves mostly ovate to ovate-elliptic, 3-5
cm long; achenes 5-6 mm long; S Puebla. *A. tomentosa*

According to Nesom (pers. comm.) *Acourtia hintoniorum* is a very robust plant up to 1.5 m high, although label data on the type specimen reports the height as ca. 0.6 m. Regardless, the taxon is clearly much taller and more robust than the type of *A. tomentosa* (UC!). *Acourtia hintoniorum* has midstems 5-6 mm thick (vs. 2-3 mm); in addition, the heads are larger with more numerous florets (ca. 100 + vs. ca. 50), and possess larger nearly glabrous achenes.

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